



**Maui
Forest Bird
Recovery
Project**



All Things 'Alalā - 2025



Aloha mai kākou

Celebrating One Year of 'Alalā in a Maui Forest!

The slopes of Haleakalā continue to be graced with the presence of five young 'alalā. This month, we've reached the one year anniversary (*'ala-versary* !) of releasing 'alalā into a high elevation forest here on Maui.

On November 11, 2024, after spending several weeks acclimatizing in an on-site aviary, the big aviary door was opened. First, one bird stepped into the world... then another, and another... Before long, all five 'alalā took to the forest with confidence and curiosity.

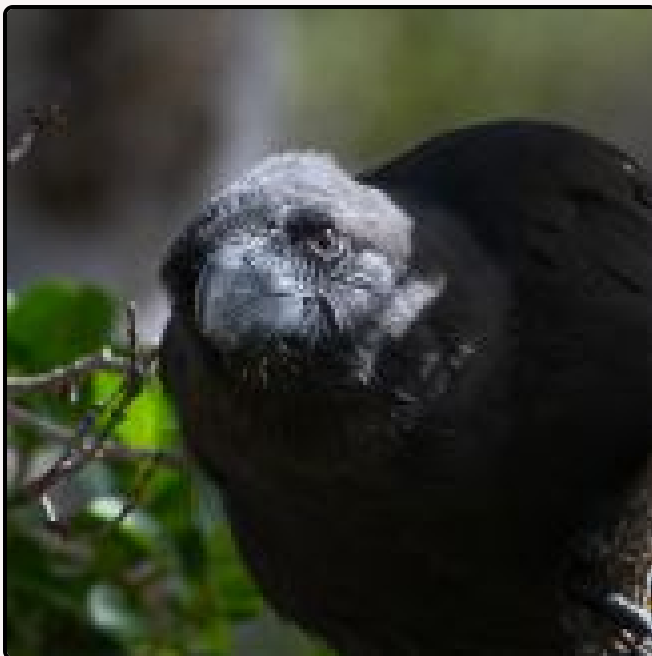
'Alalā (ah-la-LAH), Hawai'i's native crow, evolved with the plants, animals, and culture of Hawai'i. Unlike any crow found elsewhere, 'alalā historically feasted on over 30 species of native fruits, making them important seed dispersers for native plants and vital to forest regeneration. Hawai'i's native forests have been deeply impacted by the absence of 'alalā.

Returning 'alalā to their forest home has been a decades-long journey of dedication and collaboration among countless partners. Restoring 'alalā to the wild is genuinely a collective achievement rooted in hope, science, and shared commitment.

As we celebrate this 'ala-versary, we move forward with evermore determination. Together, we can continue to do great work on behalf of the health of our island ecosystems and the heritage of Hawai'i.



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With a full year now in the books, these intrepid ‘alalā carry on spreading their wings in all sorts of ways.

Foraging, pair bonding, venturing farther and farther through the canopy — the five ‘alalā continue to explore and teach us so much. They even had a trial at nest building in June, a year ahead of expectations for that level of maturity.

The ‘alalā are monitored daily and supplemental food is provided at strategically placed locations in the forest. Our Maui Forest Bird Recovery field team continues to track movements, do health checks, and document behaviors. The ‘alalā are foraging for a wide variety of fruits and insects, and engaging in their powerful repertoire of vocalizations.

We are thrilled to have reached this one year milestone!



Check out the latest blogpost from hui 'alaalā.

[Stories from the Field](#) with Idangie Sein.



Gratitude Corner

Community partners like Pukalani Superette are the best!

The five 'ālalā flying free on the slopes of Haleakalā continue to make the Maui forest their home. Prior to forest time, these captive-reared birds were conditioned in the conservation center with certain foods.

Although the birds are now regularly picking bark and foraging in the wild, our field monitoring crew continues to provide supplemental provisions to ensure these precious 'ālalā meet their full nutritional needs. This is where Pukalani Superette comes in.

By providing papayas and other fresh fruits, Pukalani Superette is helping with longstanding 'ālalā recovery efforts.

Mahalo nui, PukSup, for being such a great community partner!

OUTREACH!

The Maui Forest Bird crew continues to regularly connect with members of the public at all the wonderful community events. From Lā ‘Ulu Festival and local farmers markets to Ho‘omau, classroom visits, Arbor Day festivities and Kamehameha Schools career day, members of our team met with visitors of all ages to talk about native forest birds and MFBRP's conservation efforts.

Our aviculturist, Tess Hebebrand, gave presentations on ‘alalā recovery at Hilo’s renowned Festival of Birds and at Keālia Pond Wildlife Refuge. Her presentations were filled to capacity, with so many people excited to hear this positive news in Hawaiian conservation.

We love sharing our passion for Hawai‘i’s forest ecosystems — and we're excited about making the most of every opportunity to share all the great work happening with the Maui Forest Bird Recovery team, and to enrich public understanding of Maui’s native birds.





**We look forward to connecting with you soon again.
Until then, wishing you abundant health and peace.
*Aloha nui.***

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